GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2073
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006
HUMAN EXCHANGE PROGRAMME WITH JAPAN
Radhakrishnan Shri Varkala

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Union Government has signed any declaration regarding Human Exchange Programme with Japan this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of people sent to Japan so far;

(d) whether the Union Government has any plans to send current year applicants to Japan this year itself; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) − (b) During the official visit of Foreign Minister Taro Aso of Japan to India from January 3-4, 2006, the decision of the Japanese side to launch the "Aso Programme", which would involve exchange of 4000 persons over the next three years in the fields of Japanese language, technology, youth interaction, etc., was conveyed. The Indian side expressed its appreciation for this initiative, which would promote people-to-people contacts.

(c) − (e) The programme is an initiative of the Government of Japan and is being implemented by the Japanese side.